

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11, 14, and 17 are pending in the application, of which claims 1 and 4 are in independent form. Claim 16 is cancelled in this Reply, and no new claims are added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11, 14, and 17 and that they would be in condition for allowance if amended to include the subject matter of their base and intervening claims. In view of the following arguments, however, it is believed that base claims 1 and 4 are in condition for allowance without amendment.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 and 16 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Japanese Patent Publication Laid-Open No. 2002-199151 of Moriya in view of the U.S. Application No. 2003/0208546 of DeSalvo. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 16 is cancelled, and its rejection is therefore moot.

Although limitations are not to be imported into the claims from the specification, the claims may, and should, be “interpreted in light of the supporting disclosure”. MPEP 2106(C), citing *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

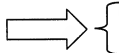
Claim 1 (and claim 4 similarly) recites, in part (formatting and numbering added for clarity of argument):

An image-attached mail transiting apparatus ... wherein ...

- A. first groups are set so that at least one of the first groups includes plural types of transmitting terminals,
- B. fifth parameters are allocated to the first groups, respectively, and
- C. the parameter deciding unit decides the first parameter from the fifth parameters allocated to the respective first groups according to the discriminated type of the transmitting terminal.

For example, Fig. 2 of the present application, reproduced below, illustrates plural types of transmitting terminals (C-401, D01, and E11) which constitute one group, in accordance with feature A.

FIG. 2



TYPE	FIRST PARAMETER	PROCESS CONTENTS
AA-01	11	SHARPNESS +3
AA-02	12	R+1
B21	13	SIZE CHANGE
B31	14	G-2
B51T	15	GIF → JPEG
C-401	16	SHARPNESS -1
D01		
E111		
⋮	⋮	⋮

In contrast, Moriya does not disclose such a feature. Rather, in paragraphs [0038]-[0040] Moriya discloses that an “input device information acquisition section 120 acquires information for specifying properties of an image input device”. ¶[0038]. “The image processing parameter storage section 130 stores in advance a plurality of various parameters that are used in image processing which is performed in accordance with the input device information acquired by the input device information acquisition section 120.” ¶[0039]. “The input device information dependent image processing section 140 selects optimum parameters from the image processing parameter storage section 130 *in accordance with the input device information* and performs image processing that depends on the input device information.” ¶[0040], emphasis added. That is, Moriya fails to group types of transmitting terminals together or to allocate a parameter to such a group.

Although “kind”, as defined in ¶[0014], may include a classification of picture input devices “such as a personal computer, a digital camera, a scanner, and an image generating device”, and a “kind name ... means each kind name in a kind of each image processing device” Moriya does not disclose or infer that a “kind” represents a group of transmitting terminals. Nor

does Moriya disclose or infer that kind names may be grouped for common allocation of processing parameters. In other words, no “groups are set so that at least one of the first groups includes plural types of transmitting terminals”.

DeSalvo does not remedy the deficiency of Moriya regarding this feature.

Feature B may also be discussed with reference to Fig 2. In the figure, first parameter ‘16’ is allocated to the group including the three types of transmitting terminals (C-401, D01, and E111). Moriya describes in ¶[0039] that “the image processing parameter storage section 130 stores in advance a plurality of various parameters that are used in image processing which is performed in accordance with the input device information acquired by the input device information acquisition section 120”. However, Moriya does not disclose allocating a parameter for image processing to multiple groups “at least one of [which] includes plural types of transmitting terminals”).

Accordingly, Neither Moriya nor DeSalvo, alone or in combination, discloses or makes obvious every feature of independent claim 1 or 4. Since the references fail to disclose features A and B, there is no reason to consider whether feature C is disclosed. However, even if, for sake of argument, the applied references did disclose features A and B (they don’t), Moriya and DeSalvo fail to disclose a parameter deciding unit that decides a first parameter from the fifth parameters allocated to the respective groups (including the group with plural types of transmitting terminals). Claims 2-3 and 5-9 depend from claim 1 or 4 and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as their base claims.

Withdrawal of the § 103 rejection and reconsideration of claims 1-9 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James C. Larsen Reg. No. 58,565 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael R. Cammarata

Registration No.: 39,491

James C. Larsen

Registration No.: 58,565

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorneys for Applicant